

11580 Rabbit Hash Road SE
Elizabeth, IN 47117
April 3, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe, Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

4773 '99 APR -8 10:05

Mr. Jaffe:

We are writing to support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP). This is an incredibly cruel practice which should be stopped immediately.

In addition to its cruelty, which cannot be justified, the practice is dangerous. The starvation and mistreatment used to force these hens to molt weakens their immune systems and renders them and their eggs more susceptible to salmonella infection. This represents an unacceptable risk to the food supply.

The practice of starving hens to force molting was banned in Great Britain more than ten years ago because of its cruelty. Most European countries do not permit the starvation of animals for any reason. It is shameful that the practice is allowed in the United States. It should be stopped immediately.

Sincerely,



Diana Kaye
Mary Ellen Clinton

98P-0203

C206

Clinton
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